

# CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

## RESOLUTION

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

*This is an official statement from the Student Assembly **supporting** the Sunrise Movement Hamilton College's rally on March 6th at 12:00pm in front of Buttrick Hall.*

*The Assembly encourages the student body to attend this rally.*

### **Background:**

Two of the three Hub coordinators for Sunrise Movement Hamilton College, **Madison Lazenby '23** and **Eric Stenzel '23**, spoke at Public Comment asking for the support of the Student Assembly for their Rally on Friday, March 6th at noon outside of Buttrick Hall. The rally echoes their message from December 6th, 2019 with some revisions. They believe there is more Hamilton College could be doing to fight the Climate Crisis and to build a livable future for the student body. They added some context to the rally, sharing that because the Board of Trustees will be on campus this week for their quarterly meeting, they want to make sure they are hearing what current students are thinking because they're unsure that the Board of Trustees are aware of all the work that the Sunrise Movement Hamilton College has been doing. They added that President Wippman has not given a public response to the demonstration from last semester. And they want more transparency about what is going on in regards to divestment, carbon neutrality, and declaring the climate emergency, amongst other things. The revision to the demands from last December specifically include requesting a public statement from David Wippman and the Board of Trustees, listing where they stand on the present issue and what work they are doing when it comes to protecting our futures as students at this institution who have to deal with a world in a climate crisis. Noted that at the end of the conversation, it was also added that Vassar College declared a climate emergency.

### **Provided below are the Rally's Demands:**

1. The total and complete divestment of Hamilton College's endowment from all companies directly involved in the extraction, production, and/or distribution of coal, oil, or natural gas as soon as is legally possible
2. The investment of an equal or greater amount to the College's total historical investment in fossil fuels into socially responsible renewable energy companies or environmental social governance mutual funds
3. The recusal of all members of the Board of Trustees with substantial stakes (\$100,000 or 10%, whichever is less) in or management of fossil fuel assets from discussions and decisions regarding divestment, in particular the chair of the Investment Committee, Robert Delaney '79, who sits on the Board of Directors for seven different fossil fuel companies
4. If the College is to decline divestment at this time, the widespread publication of an exhaustive white paper on the financial rationale for remaining in fossil fuel companies, including but not limited to these companies' names and types of fossil



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fuels, total stock values and returns over history of ownership, the connection between these specific stocks and continuation of specific, named College programs, and reasons as to why monies divested cannot be invested into other non-fossil fuel funds or companies with equal or greater historical and projected returns

5. An official College policy of being good stewards of the land of the Oneida people which it rests on, and the recognition that as such the College must reduce emissions and consider reparations, all with the prioritization of the self-determination and consultation of the Oneida Indian Nation
6. The declaration of a Climate Emergency for Hamilton College, which will entail a recognition of the grave threat to the human species in accordance with the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report that the anthropogenic climate crisis poses, and an ongoing commitment to placing emissions reductions, direct or indirect, at the forefront of all future College policy

